

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02635 281656 Z

41

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11 IGA-02 CG-00

COME-00 COA-02 AID-20 SCI-06 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 044397

R 281504 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9212

INFO DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCSO

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EO 11652 : N/ A

TAGS: MASS, ETRN, VE, US, XR

SUBJECT: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND AMAZON- ORINOCO LINKAGE

REF: STATE 052084 AND PREVIOUS

1. LTC ROBERT R. MILLS AND MR. ROBERT S. HOLMES OF US ARMY ENGINEERS WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION EXPLOSIVE EXCAVATION RESEARCH LABORATORY PLUS REST OF ARMY ENGINEER TEAM WERE IN CARACAS MARCH 18-25. TEAM STUDIED PART OF ORINOCO RIVER AND OVERFLEW AREA OF POSSIBLE ATABAPO- GUAINIA RIVER LINKAGE. ALL LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY GOV AND TEAM WAS ESCORTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY, CORPORACION VENEZOLANA DE GUAYANA, MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTRY, DOESUR, AND A SPECIAL OFFICE WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP TO COORDINATE PLANS TO LINK ORINOCO WITH OTHER RIVERS. TEAM BRIEFED PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER AFTERNOON MARCH 23 AND SPENT MARCH 24 WITH VENEZUELAN DRAWING UP DRAFT OF A PROPOSED CONTRACT.

2. MILLS AND HOLMES EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT VENEZUELAN ARE AT VERY EARLY STAGE IN THINKING ABOUT PROJECT. THIS VISIT WAS PRIMARILY FOR ENGINEERS TO LEARN WHAT GOV NEEDS AND FOR VENEZUELAN TO LEARN WHAT ENGINEERS HAVE TO OFFER. AT THIS TIME, THEY SAID,
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PAGE 02 CARACA 02635 281656 Z

STUDIES IN WHICH VENEZUELANAS ARE INTERESTED WOULD HAVE TO DO
PRIMARILY WITH NAVIGATION AND OTHER UTILIZATION OF ORINOCO
RIVER FROM PUERTO PAEZ TO DELLOPMENT IN BASICALLY FREE
ENTERPRISE SYSTEM IS NAME OF GAME IN IVORY COAST. IVORIANS WILL
WELCOME CODEL OBSERVATIONS AND WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING
WHAT KINDS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN
DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR US, THIS TOUCHES ESPECIALLY ON
QUESTION OF PRICES WE ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTS--
ON WHICH ECONOMIES OF THIS AND MOST OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
HINGE-- AND, CORRESPONDINGLY, ON COFFEE AND COCOA AGREEMENTS,
ETC. IVORIANS HAVE NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD WHY US NOT A PARTY
TO INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT, AND THIS SUBJECT MIGHT WELL BE
RAISED. THERE ARE NO SUBJECTS WHICH CODEL WISHES TO AVOID.
DECONTROL ONE YEAR.
ROOT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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